United Nations A/C.1/54/L.53

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 77 (a)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.5

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 9, 10, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.5, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

(b) Also request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support in making operational the early warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

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B. Relationship of the request to the programme of work

2. The request contained in operative paragraphs 10, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised, and section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and the related activities are provided for under section 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

4. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of the draft resolution, regarding provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and the submission of a report to the General Assembly, would be carried out within resources provided under section 4 of the regular budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The provision contained therein covers substantive servicing of four plenary sessions of the Committee during the biennium.

5. The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, including those related to the establishment of an early warning mechanism for Central Africa and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, as referred to in operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

6. Consultations are continuing on the modalities for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa. Activities in connection therewith would be carried out subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources in the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 2000-2001

7. Modifications would not be required to programme 26, Disarmament, or programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 or to sections 4 or 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

E. Potential for absorption

8. The programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 would continue to provide for substantive servicing of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee. Activities referred to in operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of the draft resolution would be financed from extrabudgetary resources. Additional requirements are therefore not expected to arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

F. Indication of additional requirements

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.5, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 80
Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of section II and operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of section III of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as might be required for the second annual conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol II and for its preparatory committee;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as might be required for the second Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention and its preparatory committee;

(c) Request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accession to the Convention and its Protocols.

2. The requests contained in operative paragraph 4 of section II and operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of section III of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52 referring to the Secretary-General's depositary functions relate to programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised, and to section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

3. With respect to the requests in operative paragraph 4 of section II and operative paragraph 2 of section III, indicative estimates are not available at this stage, since a number of decisions on organizational arrangements have yet to be taken.

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4. No provisions have been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to undertake the activities entailed in implementing these requests. It should be noted that the Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee and the Annual Conference and its Preparatory Committee are conferences of States parties to the Convention. As was the case in the past, conferences of multilateral disarmament treaties, specifically the Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention, included in their rules of procedure provisions concerning the arrangements for meeting the costs of the conference, including the sessions of the preparatory committee. Under those arrangements, no additional cost was borne by the regular budget of the Organization. It should also be noted in this connection that article 13 of the amended Protocol II provides that the cost of the Conference of High Contracting Parties shall be borne by the High Contracting Parties and States not parties participating in the work of the Conference, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted appropriately. The practice followed by the United Nations is to levy a charge, at a rate of 13 per cent of expenditures for such activities, to defray its administrative and other support costs incurred in their implementation. Accordingly, such an expense would also be borne by the High Contracting Parties and any other States that, under the rules of procedure, are invited to attend and do so.

5. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practice that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received in advance from, in this case, the High Contracting Parties and any other States that, under the rules of procedure, are invited to attend and do so.

6. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.52, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

United Nations A/C.1/54/L.55

General Assembly

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2 November 1999

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76
General and complete disarmament

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2, the General Assembly would:

> "Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 11 (2) of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Second Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000 and, on behalf of States Parties and according to Article 11 (4) of the Convention, to invite States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend this meeting as observers."

2. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 relates to programme 26, Disarmament, and programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. No provision has been made under section 4, Disarmament, or section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for activities called for in the Convention, except those relating to the depositary functions.

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2, the Secretary-General foresees requirements for Secretariat assistance and substantive support services for its implementation.

4. The costs of the Second Meeting would, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention, be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating in the Second Meeting, in accordance with the United Nations scale of

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assessments, adjusted appropriately. At this stage, indicative estimates for the convening of the Second Meeting of the States Parties are not available, since a number of decisions on organizational arrangements have yet to be taken. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that States Parties to the Convention will take a decision, in this regard, based on recommendations that will be made by the Standing Committee of Experts, as agreed upon by the First Meeting of the States Parties. Upon being informed by the States Parties of their decision regarding organizational arrangements, the Secretariat will prepare an estimate of costs for the Second Meeting.

5. Thus, pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, the request that the Secretary-General undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Second Meeting should have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. In this connection, it is noted that the practice followed by the United Nations is to levy a charge, at a rate of 13 per cent of expenditures for such activities, to defray the administrative and other support costs incurred in their implementation. Accordingly, such an expense would also be borne by the States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein.

6. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practice that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are to be financed outside of the regular budget of the United Nations may only be undertaken when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received, in advance, from the States Parties and States not parties participating in such activities.

7. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.2, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

United Nations A/C.1/54/L.56

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76
General and complete disarmament

France: amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.1/Rev.1

Preservation of and compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

1. Insert a seventh preambular paragraph:

Recalling finally the widespread concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

2. After operative paragraph 4, insert the following new operative paragraph:

Urges all member States to support efforts aiming at stemming the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

99-33006 (E) 041199

United Nations A/C.1/54/L.57

General Assembly

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5 November 1999

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (f)
General and complete disarmament: small arms

Small arms

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene the United Nations conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in June/July 2001;

(b) Also decide to establish a preparatory committee open to participation by all States, which would hold no less than three sessions, with its first session to be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2000;

(c) Also request the preparatory committee to decide, at its first session, on the date and venue of the conference in 2001 as well as on the dates and venue of its subsequent sessions;

(d) Request the preparatory committee to make recommendations to the conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which would include a programme of action, and decide on background documents to be made available in advance;

(e) Invite all Member States, in particular those which have not yet done so, in response to the Secretary-General's note verbale of 20 January 1999, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the conference;

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(f) Request the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States relevant to paragraph (e) above to the preparatory committee and to render the preparatory committee and the conference all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;

(g) Endorse the report of the Secretary-General on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 J, bearing in mind the views of Member States on the report;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report as well as on the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained therein;

(i) Also request the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of the report within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by the States in a position to do so and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary;

(j) Further request the Secretary-General, in order to assist in preventing the illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons:

(i) To carry out a study, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and with the assistance of governmental experts appointed by him, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, while seeking the views of Member States, on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture of and trade in such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States, which will cover the brokering activities, in particular illicit activities, relating to small arms and light weapons, including transportation agents and financial transactions;

(ii) To submit the study as one of the background documents for the conference to be held in 2001.

B. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

2. The activities referred to above would fall under programme 26, Disarmament, programme 27, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and programme 23, Public information, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. While provision has been made under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, for activities envisaged under operative paragraphs 10, 12, 13 and 14 (a), provision has not been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the convening of the international conference referred to in operative paragraph 1 nor for the preparatory committee and related activities referred to in operative paragraphs 3, 5, 7 and 9.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would serve as the substantive secretariat for the sessions of the preparatory committee and for the conference. In accordance with operative paragraphs 5 and 7, the Department would assist in the preparation of the draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which would include a programme of action. The Department would also facilitate the provision of background documents to be made available in advance of the

sessions of the preparatory committee and of any other documents as might be required by the preparatory committee for the conference itself.

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 9, the Department would be responsible for rendering the preparatory committee and the conference all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information and relevant documents. With regard to the provision of summary records, attention is drawn to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, in which the Assembly confirmed that summary records should not be provided to special conferences and their preparatory organs, with the exception of legal codification conferences, for which the needs would be determined in each case.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 10, 12 and 13, the Department would undertake activities, within its programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001, in response to recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms.

6. With respect to operative paragraph 14 (a), the Department would convene an expert group to study the feasibility of restricting the manufacture of and trade in small arms and light weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States. The report of the expert group would be used as one of the background documents for the conference in accordance with paragraph 14 (b) of the draft resolution.

7. Consistent with established practice as regards United Nations special conferences, public information activities would be undertaken by the Department of Public Information to publicize the conference and the issues to be addressed.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 2000-2001

8. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the convening of the international conference and its preparatory committee. Consequently, provisions for the related requirements would have to be made under section 4, Disarmament, and section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and section 26, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

1. Conference-servicing requirements

9. Taking into account that New York is the established headquarters for activities related to the conference, it is assumed that the meetings for the conference and preparatory committee would be convened in New York. It is envisaged that conference-servicing costs, amounting to $1,599,700 at full cost, would be incurred with respect to the following:

(a) It is assumed that three sessions of the preparatory committee would be held in New York in 2000 and 2001, the first session having a duration of 5 days and each of the subsequent sessions having a duration of 10 days, with one meeting in the morning and one in the afternoon. Simultaneous interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations. In addition, 150 pages of in-session documentation and 50 pages of post-session documentation would be provided at each session of the preparatory committee. On the basis of these assumptions, estimated costs for the first session of the preparatory committee would amount to $254,300 (excluding $56,200 for the provision of

summary records). On the same basis, costs for the second and third sessions of the preparatory committee are estimated at $325,500 per session (excluding $112,500 for the provision of summary records). Therefore, the total estimated conference-servicing costs (excluding summary records) of holding the three sessions of the preparatory committee are $905,300. (See the annex for a breakdown of the costs);

(b) On the assumption that the duration of the conference would be 10 days, with two meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, and interpretation and documentation in the six official languages of the United Nations, the related costs are estimated at $694,400 (excluding $167,700 for summary records). (See the annex for a breakdown of the costs.)

2. Summary records

10. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/17 C (see para. 4 above), neither the conference nor its preparatory committee would be entitled to the provision of summary records, the cost of which is estimated at $448,900.

3. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Temporary assistance

11. Temporary assistance equivalent to 18 work-months at the P-4 level and 24 work-months at the General Service (Other level) would be required for the planning, organization and convening of the conference and its preparatory committee, including the following:

(a) The preparation of documents required for submission to the conference and the sessions of the preparatory committee;

(b) The establishment and maintenance of effective channels of communication with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other interested groups in response to the wide and diverse interest that is expected to be shown in the preparations for the conference;

(c) The overall planning, organizational and administrative arrangements necessary for the preparation of the sessions of the preparatory committee and the conference.

12. The requirements for temporary assistance are estimated at $313,400 ($166,100 in 2000 and $147,300 in 2001).

Consultants

13. The equivalent of six work-months of consultancy services would be needed to provide expertise in addressing the issues to be considered by the preparatory committee and the conference and in contributing to the preparation of relevant background documents. The related costs are estimated to be $71,200, including travel and daily subsistence allowance.

Public information activities

14. For major conferences convened by the Secretary-General, provision is made for requirements of public coverage. In its proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, the Department of Public Information has included provisions for public information activities related to eight special meetings and conferences to be convened during 2000-2001. No provision, however, has been included for the United Nations conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

15. Additional related information activities would highlight the goals and purposes of the Conference and the sessions of its Preparatory Committee, with a view to attracting wide support for and interest in it. In this context, due note is taken of the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution which refers to "the important role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in preventing and reducing the excessive and destabilizing accumulations of small arms and light weapons". The Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, would develop an information strategy that would entail, *inter alia*: regular articles in the *UN Chronicle*; radio feature programmes and the "UN in Action" television series; screenings of the United Nations Television documentary on small arms; display of the Department for Disarmament Affairs-United Nations Children's Fund exhibit at the site of the conference; translation of information materials into local languages and events organized at the national level by United Nations information centres located in the countries most affected by small arms ($20,000); creation of a special page on the United Nations Web site ($5,000); and a press kit for the conference in English, French and Spanish ($30,000). Total requirements for these activities are estimated at $55,000.

16. On the assumption that the conference and the preparatory committee sessions would be held in New York, it is estimated that an amount of $283,500 would be required for the Department of Public Information to carry out press coverage of the conference and its preparatory committee. Such costs would cover temporary assistance for press officers, editors, Internet technicians and support staff. Together with the requirements mentioned in paragraph 15 above, the total estimated costs for public information activities would amount to $338,500.

Group of governmental experts on the feasibility study

17. The convening of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 J, has been included in section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

18. The requirements estimated in paragraphs 9 to 17 above are summarized as follows:

		United States dollars
A.	Conference-servicing costs[1]	1 599 700
	(First session)	254 300
	(Second session)	325 500
	(Third session)	325 500
	(Conference)	694 400
B.	Non-conference-servicing requirements[2]	1 025 100
	Total estimated cost (on a full cost basis)	**2 624 800**

[1] Excluding the provision of summary records estimated at $448,900.

[2] Including the requirements of $302,000 for three meetings in 2000-2001 of the group of governmental experts to study the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of small arms and light weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States.

F. Potential for absorption

19. Provisions in the amount of $302,000 for three meetings in 2000-2001 of the group of governmental experts to study the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of small arms and light weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States are included in section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. However, no other provisions have been made under that section nor under section 26, Public information, for other activities related to the sessions of the preparatory committee and the conference.

20. The conference-servicing requirements, exclusive of summary records, of the preparatory committee and the conference are estimated at $1,599,700, at full cost. The extent to which the Organization's capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001. Provision is made under the relevant section for conference services of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required.

21. Should the General Assembly decide on the provision of summary records, an additional provision would be required for temporary assistance in the amount of $448,900.

G. Contingency fund

22. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and, in effect, starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

H. Summary

23. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $723,100 would be required in the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, as follows: under section 4, Disarmament ($384,600); and under section 26, Public information ($338,500). Should the General Assembly decide on the provision of summary records, an additional appropriation of $448,900 would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services. In addition, an amount of $56,500 would be required under section 32 , Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income Section 1, Income from staff assessment for the additional staff for the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

Annex

Estimates on a full-cost basis of conference-servicing and non-conference-servicing costs of the conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and of the sessions of its preparatory committee

(United States dollars)

		Group of governmental experts	*First session of the preparatory committee*	*Second session of the preparatory committee*	*Third session of the preparatory committee*	*Conference*	*Total*
1	*Conference-servicing costs*[a]						
	In-session documentation		139 900	139 900	139 900	323 100	742 800
	Post-session documentation		42 600	42 600	42 600	85 300	213 100
	Meeting services and interpretation		65 900	131 300	131 300	262 500	591 000
	Other requirements		5 900	11 700	11 700	23 500	52 800
	Total, 1	**-**	**254 300**	**325 500**	**325 500**	**694 400**	**1 599 700**
2	*Non-conference-servicing costs*						
	Temporary assistance (18 work-months at P-4 and 24 work-months at GS (OL))		-	-	-	313 400	313 400
	Consultants		10 300	20 300	20 300	20 300	71 200
	Travel of experts	302 000	-	-	-	-	302 000
	Press coverage and public information activities		40 300	80 600	80 600	137 000	338 500
	Total, 2	**302 000**	**45 200**	**86 900**	**86 900**	**496 500**	**1 025 100**
	Grand total (1 + 2)	**302 000**	**299 500**	**412 400**	**412 400**	**1 190 900**	**2 624 800**

[a] Excluding $448,900 which would be required should the General Assembly decide on the provision of summary records for the conference and its preparatory committee.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-first session
First Committee
Agenda item 66
Question of Antarctica

Draft resolution proposed by the Chairman

Question of Antarctica

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/56 of 10 December 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report consisting of the information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica as well as on developments in relation to Antarctica,

Taking into account the debates on the question of Antarctica held since its thirty-eighth session,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effect on global and regional climate conditions and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty,[1] which provides, *inter alia*, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on 14 January 1998, which has designated Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science and the provisions contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

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including the need for environmental impact assessment, in the planning and conduct of all relevant activities in Antarctica,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impacts on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming also the increasing awareness of an interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Reaffirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica[2] and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing his report and also of the Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, which took place in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 19 to 30 May 1997, at Tromso, Norway, from 25 May to 5 June 1998 and at Lima, Peru, from 24 May to 4 June 1999, respectively;

2. *Recalls* the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue to:

(a) Ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

(b) Enhance access of the international scientific community and specialized agencies of the United Nations to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

3. *Welcomes* the invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urges the parties to continue to do so for future consultative meetings;

4. *Welcomes also* the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encourages the Parties to continue to provide the Secretary-General and other interested States with information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report which shall consist of that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

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[2] A/54/339.

[3] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution I, annex II, chap. 17, para. 17.105.